GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1365
ANSWERED ON:02.08.2005
SUSPENSION OF FENCING WORK
Badiga Shri Ramakrishna;Chakrabortty Shri Swadesh;Dome Dr. Ram Chandra;Gangwar Shri Santosh Kumar;Mollah Shri Hannan;Ponnuswamy Shri E.;Seth Shri Lakshman Chandra;Subba Shri Moni Kumar;Tripathi Shri Chandramani

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the fencing work on some patches along the Indo-Bangladesh border has been suspended in view of the objections raised by Bangladesh as reported in the `Hindustan Times` dated May 30, 2005;

(b) if so, reasons therefor alongwith the reaction of the Government with regard to the objection raised by the Bangladesh Government;

(c) whether the Government is taking into consideration the fate of more than 62000 people living in 254 villages along the Indo-Bangladesh Borderline prior to entering in negotiation with Bangladesh Government on fencing of the Border; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to restart the fencing work along Bangladesh border?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS(SHRI S. REGUPATHY)

(a) & (b): Bangladesh Rifles has been resisting the erection of fencing within 150 yards of the international border at certain places on the plea that the fencing has defence potential and its construction within 150 yards violates the provision of Joint Indo-Bangladesh Guidelines for Border Authorities 1975. On occasions BDR has resorted to unprovoked firing on BSF/civil workers engaged in construction work. Consequent to objections by BDR, the work of construction of fence on patches, where alignment falls within 150 yards of the international border, has been suspended.

(c) & (d): The Government of India has tried a number of times to convince the Bangladesh Government that the erection of fence is mutually beneficial for both the countries as it will help in controlling illegal trans-border activities. It has also been explained that the fence is a preventive arrangement and is not a defence work and thus does not violate any provision of Joint Indo-Bangladesh Guidelines for Border Authorities 1975. The Bangladesh Government has been persuaded not to resist construction of fence within 150 yards of the international border so that the fencing is erected ahead of these villages whenever possible keeping in view of geographical factors etc.